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September 3, 1966

Dear Mr. Sokol,

When I get a letter like yours I'm torn from what I'm doing, if only in my mind, and am tempted to drop work and reply immediately. It means much to me to know that there are as many of your generation concerned as I find in reactions to my book and personal appearances.

The Burke show, I believe, is the turning point, for it gave a perspective to millions of people and was a kind of education to the media people. As the appearance of WHITEWASH broke the publishing ice, so did that show, with the unrehearsed and to me at least unexpected dramatic confrontation, change the attitude of the electronic media. We have already taped a followup of a different character that will be aired within the next two weeks. On it will be Lane, Sauvage, a courageous Texas weekly editor, Penn Bones, Jr., and an animate and articulate sampler of the abuse to which a fine intellect can be twisted, a history professor named Jacob Cohen, whose mind, unable to cope with the full horror of what confronts it, alchemizes the unpleasantness into totally false formulations that slip unembarrassed from his mouth like burps from an infant. Because of your own knowledge of the facts of this case, I encourage you to pay close attention to his comments on this show. It will also serve to indicate one of the failings of our society in both the assassination and its inquest, and to show what we must guard against in the future for the viability of our society. The same station has already taped Lane in an Alan Burke show that will be telecast after this "special".

What can you do. I am often asked this question. I always include a letter to the appropriate national legislators and newspapers. Perhaps the most important thing you mentioned unprompted, informing others. These are two ways in which a democratic society functions. Were your situation other than it is, I'd find other tasks for you. I got a number of similar offers after the Burke show. I have accepted them from those in a position to do something specific. For example, and not intended for my continuing writing but for historic record, lawyers are preparing briefs on the requirements of an autopsy and the legal aspects of Part II of my book, Oswald in the hands of public authority.

I can at the moment give only an indefinite answer to your informal invitation to speak at your college. It is that I would welcome the opportunity if and when I can and if it can be informal, for I have no time to prepare speeches. Thus far in those invitations close to home that I have accepted, this has worked out well save for one problem: students, God bless them, prolong the question period well past the allotted time. Because I have not yet organized any speaking tour and have no bureau handling it, I am accepting the fees that are normally given plus expenses. At the moment, I cannot do anything for at least a month for I am completing a sequel. One other thing I ask, because of the nature of the subject is that a tape recording be made for me. Thank you very much for your interest and for taking the time to write. Anything you see in the papers that I may not see here in the country can also be of value, if you can send it.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg